

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald W. Muirhead on 3/24/2010.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A multimedia message service apparatus, comprising:

first decision means that, when receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted, references an international prefix table to decide whether or not the message is to be transmitted internationally to a forwarding destination, based on transmission destination information in said multimedia message;

second decision means that, if the first decision means decides that the message is to be transmitted to the forwarding destination, references a first routing table based on said transmission destination information to decide whether or not the forwarding destination supports number portability;

first acquisition means that, if the second decision means decides that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, acquires the domain name of the forwarding destination from said transmission destination information by referencing said first routing table;

second acquisition means that, if said second decision means decides that the forwarding destination does support number portability, acquires international identification information corresponding to said transmission destination information by inquiring registration means that registers subscriber data and acquires the domain name of the forwarding destination by referencing a second routing table based on the international identification information that has thus been acquired; and

forwarding means that forwards said multimedia message to the forwarding destination of the domain name that has been acquired by said first acquisition means or said second acquisition means.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A multimedia message service apparatus, comprising:

a first decision apparatus that, after receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted, determines if the message is to be transmitted internationally to a forwarding destination based on transmission destination information in the multimedia message;

a second decision apparatus that, if the first decision apparatus determines that the message is to be transmitted internationally to the forwarding destination, references a first routing table based on the transmission destination information to determine if the forwarding destination supports number portability;

a first acquisition apparatus that, if the second decision apparatus determines that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, acquires ~~information identifying~~ domain name of the forwarding destination using the transmission destination information and the first routing table;

a second acquisition apparatus that, if the second decision apparatus determines that the forwarding destination does support number portability, acquires international identification information corresponding to the transmission destination information and acquires the domain name of ~~information identifying~~ the forwarding destination using the international identification information and a second routing table; and

a forwarding apparatus that forwards the multimedia message to the forwarding destination using the domain name of ~~information identifying~~ the forwarding destination.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method for servicing multimedia messages, comprising:

receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted;

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determining if the message is to be transmitted internationally to a forwarding destination based on transmission destination information in the multimedia message;

if it is determined that the message is to be transmitted internationally to the forwarding destination, referencing a first routing table based on the transmission destination information to determine if the forwarding destination supports number portability;

if it is determined that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, acquiring domain name of information identifying the forwarding destination using the transmission destination information and the first routing table;

if it is determined that the forwarding destination does support number portability, acquiring international identification information corresponding to the transmission destination information and acquiring the domain name of information identifying the forwarding destination using the international identification information and a second routing table; and

forwarding the multimedia message to the forwarding destination using the domain name of the forwarding destination or the international identification information.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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None of the prior arts of record teach or suggest the claimed limitations in the context of the reasons stated in the response dated 3/2/2009, page 14 of 16 and Appeal Brief dated 12/28/2009, page 9 and the Specification pages 15 and 16 describing its Industrial Applicability. None of the prior arts of record teach or fairly suggest the claimed limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ASHOK B. PATEL whose telephone number is (571)272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-

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free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ashok B. Patel/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2449